UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/638
8 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 6 August 1996 concerning the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. GORELIK
Chargé d'affaires

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Annex

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The leadership of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan is actively engaged in efforts to heighten tension along the Tajik-Afghan border.

In recent days the situation along the Badakhshan sector of the border has deteriorated sharply.

The intransigent armed Tajik opposition present in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, with the support of a number of Afghan field commanders, local authorities in Afghan Badakhshan and some circles in Kabul, have begun to make direct preparations for large-scale military operations in the territory of Tajikistan. Large detachments of fighters have moved out from base areas where they had been concentrating in the heights above Kufab gorge and are now within a few kilometres of the border.

In view of the developing situation, the Federal Frontier Service of the Russian Federation, in collaboration with the Frontier Troops of the Republic of Tajikistan, and military contingents of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan engaged in protecting the border, with the support of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces, are taking steps to maintain order along the Tajik-Afghan border and defend the interests of the Republic of Tajikistan and the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in accordance with the political decisions taken within the framework of CIS.

Any attempt by the detachments of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan to break through the border into the territory of Tajikistan will be resolutely repulsed.

The entire responsibility for the consequences of any hostile acts along the border rests with the leadership of the intransigent Tajik opposition and those who lend their support to such acts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expresses its confidence that the leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan will take all necessary measures to prevent Afghan territory from being used by the Tajik opposition and other armed formations to carry out illegal actions along the Afghan-Tajik border.

In the interests of stability and peace along the border we believe it is necessary to hold a meeting of representatives of the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Afghanistan for the purpose of working out urgent measures for building confidence and promoting security.

Moscow, 6 August 1996